

Benton County Commissioner Meeting January 22nd, 2025

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Phil McGinnis, Shawn Leuck and via telephone John Gick, Benton County Auditor Beth Budreau, County Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Others in attendance were Colin Sullivan, Sara Niccum, Derek Fuehrer, Latisha Provo, Dwight Snethen, Brian Greer, Penny Titus, Amy Wilkinson, Jason Fisher, Justin Arnett, Ron Shoup, Sam Smith, Dave Fisher, Dennis Sondgerath, Tyler Flook, Chad Hoerr, Loren Honegger, John Cox, Hanna Guimond, Dusty Wicker, Tommy Kleckner, Noah Nobbe, and Catherine Baker.

Evan Puetz – Assistant Highway Superintendent

- Received a notice from Lynn Emerson that their new pickup will start the line at February 17th.
- Working on plows and the sand truck.

Colin Sullivan - BF&S

Colin presented a supplement to add Oak Grove to the load ratings for the small structures, they are adding that township to get load rated and reinspected based on future project. When the agreement was first set up it was just Pine and Bolivar. Once they have a route map more defined, they will know if they will have to go out and do re-inspections or not. If they don't have to go out and reinspect some of the structures, they won't. They will still be going to go and do load capacity so they know if the small structures can handle heavy hauls. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the supplement and Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

Jason stated that the grant process for building resistant infrastructure is open. He said it is quite a detailed process; they applied for a generator to replace the one they currently have last time, and that was not in the grants scope. Jason stated that the only thing that would really benefit us based on our geographic location, would be tornado shelters. In ground tornado shelters are not cheap, but it is something Jason could look at if the commissioners are okay with that. Jason stated right now the only county owned property that they could look at putting one in at is the fairgrounds. Jason stated once he gets a quote on one, he said he could reach out to the Towns to see if they would work with the county in putting in some. Commissioner McGinnis asked Jason to investigate it to see what we're dealing with first. Jason said he would do the pre-application first to get us in the door.

- A resolution for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the resolution, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.
- An Ordinance to update the EMS billing for the county. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the ordinance, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.
- 3 pay at once were presented that he would like to be approved to be paid. Aladtec Inc for the scheduling system, J&K Communications – Console service contract for dispatch, Lexapool which is the online training system and AT&T. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve these pay at once, Commissioner Phil McGinnis seconded, motion carried.

Jason asked for the commissioner's permission to switch AT&T to a pay at once instead of a monthly claim. Auditor Beth Budreau stated it would just require an amendment to the pay at once ordinance.

Jason is working on getting the commissioners information on the Safe Place Program.

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Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked Auditor Beth Budreau to look over the EMS credit card statements to see what a reasonable credit amount for him would be, since he is having issues with going over his current amount.

Sam Smith – Deputy Surveyor

Sam presented a rezoning for Carolyn Foust in Oxford – She is wanting to refinance and the bank told her that her property needed to be rezoned. Sam stated that it is zoned business right now and it needs to be residential. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated it's never been business, and it needs fixed. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to have it rezoned to residential, Commissioner Phil McGinnis seconded, motioned carried.

Business

The conflict-of-interest forms for the county employees were presented and Commissioners reviewed and approved.

Auditor Beth Budreau brought up the vacant spot for plan commission, Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that they have not decided yet, Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated he believes it needs to be a democrat or independent person.

There were 3 more sharing contracts reviewed and approved they are listed below.

Area IV/Hope Transit
Fowler Senior Center
Boswell Senior Center

The 01.10.2025 payroll was reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

Pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

Auditor Beth Budreau presented a pay at once request for the prosecutor's office, it is for a jury trial they have coming up and there are some labs that need to be done for the case, in the amount of \$600.00. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the pay at once, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.

Loren Honegger & Chad Hoerr - Bio Town

Loren & Chad came before the board today to discuss the road use agreement, and the damages they are getting to their trucks. Chad discussed that they went back and forth with Jacob and the previous commissioners to come up with a road use agreement. Bio Town laid out about \$50,000 in a escrow fund, and on the road use agreement there are about 7 miles of agreed upon routes that service 3 of their dairy's. It is their understanding that they have not used any of those funds but would like to work with the Highway Superintendent on the use of those allocations of dollars on those 7 miles of roads. Some are in better shape than others and they stated they have had some damage to their truck and trailers. Bio Town would like to work together and make sure they are contributing their fair share to repair the roads. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that he was not necessarily pleased with the number of trucks that were running on roads that should not have been traveled on. He stated it took awhile for the issue to get rectified, but it is now. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that he just wants to make sure that the drivers are staying on the proposed route. Chad understands his concerns and those issues have been addressed to the drivers. Chad is asking how they can reach out to the county and let them know what roads are the problem and how to get it fixed. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that we are working on

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that right now and stated that one of the things that BF&S is finding is that one of the entrances at Ambia, they've taken it down to the concrete stabilization, it is the manure trucks loaded coming in and out. Commissioner Phil McGinnis also stated that what we were told is that the number of loads coming in and out in day have doubled from what was originally told to the county. Commissioner McGinnis stated the county is working with BF&S to find a solution and Bio Town will be involved with the solution once there are findings for one. Commissioner McGinnis stated the county wants to keep a good working relationship with Bio Town, we just all have to stay on the same page. Colin Sullivan stated within the next month or so BF&S will do a study to see what they are working with. Evan stated the maintenance for the roads has doubled in price, just in stone. Commissioner McGinnis stated is has been an issue for some time and were looking for a resolution for all parties involved.

Dusty Wicker – CSI / Hannah Guimond – Recorder

Dusty came before the board to discuss a new service they are offering, which is property fraud prevention. Right now, the recorder's office has a free service, where you can go in and get an alert that something is recorded that pertains to your property or name. This new service is free to the county, but it costs the subscriber a yearly fee. Dusty went on to explain how the new service works. Attorney Ahler stated the recorder had sent him the agreement and he would look over it. Dusty stated it did not need to be signed today, Hannah stated they wanted to just present it to the board for approval. Commissioner Shawn Leuck said to let Attorney Ahler look over the agreement and it would be tabled for now.

Business Continued

Auditor Beth Budreau presented an annual quote from Fowler Pest Control for lawn care, it was reviewed and Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.

The Town of Otterbein Library Board submitted a certificate of Appointment for Cindy Honneger, Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve her appointment, Commissioner Phil McGinnis seconded, motion carried.

Auditor Beth Budreau presented a holiday schedule for the sheriff's office, Sheriff Cox is requesting the commissioner's approval. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the holiday schedule, Commissioner Phil McGinnis seconded, motion carried.

The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:28 am, then reopened at 9:44am

Business Continued

Commissioner Phil McGinnis brought up the contractual agreement with Purdue for extension, he explained the situation to Attorney Ahler. Attorney Ahler asked for a point of contact so he can reach out to them to get more information before the commissioners sign the agreement.

John Cox – Sheriff

- The sheriff was his 3 correction officer positions, training has started this week.
- The sheriff presented the commissioners with a copy of the year end commissary and inmate trust fund report.
- The sheriff stated that the jail inspection and the State fire inspection went well.
- The sheriff has a meeting with Fowler Street and wastewater about jail renovations and demolition of the old jail this Friday at 10:00am.
- The firearms simulator training has started.
- The sheriff's office has a new commissary system that is up and running.

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- County Highway is going to move the trailer at the old jail once it warms up.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked where he was at on updates for gear for the deputies. Sheriff Cox said that he already has the money to put the new video in the trucks and the body worn cameras. Sheriff Cox stated that it would be coming out of the OPOID fund.

Sheriff Cox stated that what they need is to replace all of the department's tazers. Sheriff Cox stated that it's about \$60,000 to re-outfit all the deputies and correction officers, he is going to be looking into grant money for that.

Sheriff Cox stated that he needs to retrofit all their patrol rifles, but he's looking to do that later in the year out of commissary.

Sheriff Cox wanted to discuss PTO for new hirers. Auditor Beth Budreau stated it goes quarterly for new hires, so whatever quarter they were hired is how many days of PTO they receive. It is a maximum of 8 days, and there is a 90 day probationary period, but it can be used early at the department heads discretion. Sheriff Cox is requesting to increase the 0-1 year of PTO days. Per the personnel policy 0-1 year is 8 days, and then 2-5 years is 25 days, 6-10 years is 30 days, and then 11+ years its 35 days with 0-5 years 10-day carryover, 6-10 years 15 days carryover and 11+ years with 20 days of carryover. Sheriff Cox stated with 3 new employees he'd like to have it increased. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated it would have to be across the board, Commissioner McGinnis said that it will be discussed.

John Cox – Fairgrounds

- John presented fair board minutes stating the fair board voted to turn ownership of the gates and fans over to the commissioners. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to accept to take over ownership, Commissioner Phil McGinnis seconded, motion carried.
- John discussed the rental options for the new building
- Mainstream is storing their poles at the fairgrounds; in return they are working with them to get better internet service at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked what the final number was for the building. John stated that it is \$450,000. John stated that they did receive a major donor, he has also talked to BP Wind energy, and they stated they would like to make a chunk of a donation. But there is some issues between wind and carbon and Commissioner McGinnis stated that he thinks things need to be settled before we get any donations from them.

Tommy Kleckner, Noah Nobbe – Indiana Landmarks

They introduced Katherine Baker the architect who did the physical assessment of the old jail. Katherine went over her assessment and stated the building is in remarkable condition. She stated the moisture issues are from the roof leak at the valley which is normal for its age. They came before the board today to request more time to get roofing, HVAC, etc. to get looked at and get estimates of repairs. They stated with the holidays and the weather has made it challenging for them to get contractors out to get the estimates. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated at this point we must do what is best for the county. Commissioner John Gick motioned to move forward with the demolition, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.

Business continued:

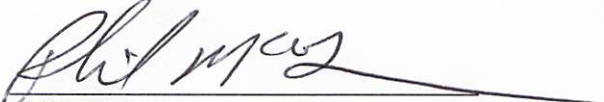
Library board of trustees submitted a certificate of appointment for Kassandra Illiff to the Earl Park Library Board. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the certificate of appointment, Commissioner Shawn Leuck seconded, motion carried.

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Town of Fowler – Jason Fisher

Jason Fisher stated that the Town of Fowler would like to the rights to a property that did not sell on Tax Sale, 107 N Lincoln Ave Fowler IN 47944. The commissioners all agreed that the gifting process can be started.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, John Gick, motion carried



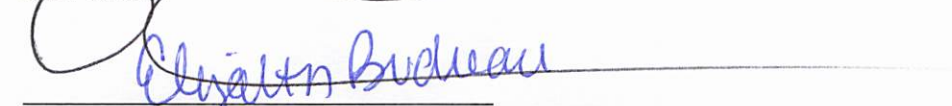
Phil McGinnis



Shawn Leuck



John Gick



Elizabeth Budreau

Attest: Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor

Call Date	Call Time	From Name	From	Dialed	To	Duration
1/22/2025	8:19:19	Holly Logsdon	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	2:56:33
1/22/2025	8:19:08	GICK TRUCKING	(765) 479-8003	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	2:56:45
1/22/2025	8:17:28	Holly Logsdon	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:01:42
1/22/2025	8:16:11	GICK TRUCKING	(765) 479-8003	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:01:42
1/22/2025	8:14:45	Holly Logsdon	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:01:39
1/22/2025	8:12:55	GICK TRUCKING	(765) 479-8003	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:03:04
1/22/2025	8:12:18	Holly Logsdon	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:01:41